

Lord Goodman



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Accentuate quality rather than quantity, colleges are urged

by David Walker

In a major speech on the future of colleges of education, Dr William Taylor, director of the London University Institute of Education, has urged them to look beyond their current obsession with numbers, closures and reorganization. Dr Taylor told the North of England Education Conference this week that insufficient attention was being given to the important question of what kind of skills and knowledge the future teacher needs and how such skills ought to be communicated. Instead, he said, the focus was on the size of colleges and institutes and the number and distribution of student places.



Professor William Taylor—called for national teacher education forum.

He said: "As a result of the trends of the past few years we have become obsessed with questions of organization and control at the expense of an interest in those questions of content—the skills and knowledge that we try to communicate—that will ultimately determine the quality of teaching." He went on to argue for a return to teacher education based on universities and polytechnics and a national forum to be called the Education of Teachers Council to coordinate research and stimulate thinking. Dr Taylor was speaking during the second session of the annual conference, which brings together administrators, local authority educationists and university teachers. It is being held this year at Maudslayi College of Education in Staffordshire, to discuss the kind of colleges which will have in close future what Taylor called the "minimum system" of the 1980s is established. He traced the history of the colleges, arguing that they have always been slaves of their own history. Despite all the hopes of the 1950s, colleges of education never really rose off the images associated with the 19th century. These images, of isolation, intellectual inadequacy and professional relevance, of a disjunction between the day-to-day lecture programme and the school-based periods of practical experience; of the interstitial status of the staff; of other teachers or academics; of concern that in the early days of the form of sufficiency and stable regulations, and later an intellectualized absorption with the mechanics of group life, were demonstrably unfair to the variety provided by the 163 institutions that tried the system in its heyday. "Yes, alas, in a complex world which judgments must necessarily be made on the basis of insufficient information the colleges never managed to generate enough information to correct false stereotypes laid in their past."

william, to be found where central and local government decision-making meet on an institution, in the form of liberal bands of university and Council for National Academic Awards visitors, and its popular interpreters with their weekly articles and passing column and television appearances."

But the real world of teacher training was not, Dr Taylor said, and though now needed to be paid to what it should look like under the minimum system of the 1980s which would involve 40,000 places, 10,000 for graduates and the equivalent of 10,000 for in-service training. Many surviving units will have more than 750 students. Dr Taylor predicted that the preparation of "consecutively trained" teachers would grow—that is, those given teacher training after a degree or DipHE. But he posed the question whether the trend was the outcome of an educational decision or merely a way of simplifying the planning of recruitment and bringing greater flexibility into the system.

Another aspect of the minimum system was in-service training. Some local authorities were understood to be offering their teachers secondment only to local colleges and polytechnics. He commented that while this was an understandable policy in hard times it would prevent teachers obtaining the specialized courses they needed.

Democratic government of modern universities hailed

At the same conference the vice-chancellor of Keele University hailed the modern university as the embodiment of the democratic principles of devolution, participation, representation and accountability.

Professor W. A. Campbell Stewart said the way a university worked by combining academic, student and lay members together in committees which decided things by majority votes exemplified these principles. He also criticized the external government of British universities. The University Grants Committee is a unique body, the envy of other countries. Composed of a majority of academics of high standing, together with heads of schools and business representatives, the UGC consults and advises universities and acts as their representative in the Government, providing on the one hand a buffer and on the other a means of planning with a maximum of flexibility.

"It is of the highest importance that our body should continue to discharge its function and to retain the confidence of both the universities, the public and the Government." Professor Stewart warned against attempts to merge the universities with other institutions of higher education. Some kind of expanded grants committee representing all higher education held the danger of bringing the universities more directly under government control. Another, more subtle, danger lay in the quality of school students. The universities depended, he argued, on a continuing supply of pupils from the schools well prepared for higher education. It had to be remembered that university courses did not lead directly from the pattern of comprehensive secondary schooling. "University education has two functions, first to serve the social needs, second to provide for the development of the individual person." Academic training had always to take place within the broader background, Professor Stewart said.

Church college closures denied

The Church of England Board of Education this week categorically denied that it had been informed the names of the three Church colleges which were to cease initial teacher training, as reported in last week's *THES*. In a letter to *The THES* Canon Albert Holtby, general secretary of the Church of England's Board of Education, says the first paragraph refers to an alleged announcement by the Government in its Board on decisions made about the Church of England colleges of education. This statement is completely untrue. The letter expresses concern about the origin of the report.

TUC spurns dons' plea

The Association of University Teachers has lost its battle for representation on the Government's Generic Manpower Advisory Group. The four-employee members will include two ASTMS representatives—Ms Donna Haber and Professor Robert Williamson of St Mary's Hospital Medical School—TUC medical adviser Dr Ronald Owen, and Dr Derek Elliott from the Institute of Professional Civil Servants. The TUC refused to nominate an AUT representative on the grounds that some of the scientific members of the advisory group would also be AUT members. The resulting row meant that its worker representatives were appointed in time for the first meeting before Christmas. The man who has been handling the issue for the TUC, Mr Peter Jakes, head of social insurance, said this week he was still hoping to persuade the Department of Education and Science to add a fifth union representative. He would then put forward an AUT nominee. But a DES spokesman said membership was now definitely closed. The Secretary of State, Mrs Shirley Williams, has also added two extra "public interest" representatives to the group: Dr Jerry Ravary, formerly head of the history and philosophy of science at Leeds University, and Dr Marie Jahoda, professor emerita of social psychology at Sussex University and senior consultant to the university's Science Policy Research Unit.

Sussex science unit praised by review panel

by Clive Cookson
 science correspondent

The Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU) at Sussex University has been given a strong vote of confidence by the independent panel set up to review its first 10 years. The panel, chaired by Sir Brian Flowers, former of Imperial College, London, congratulated the unit on the valuable contributions made in their main areas of its work: industrial innovation studies (with particular reference to Britain), science and technology policy in developing countries, and social and technological attitudes for the future.

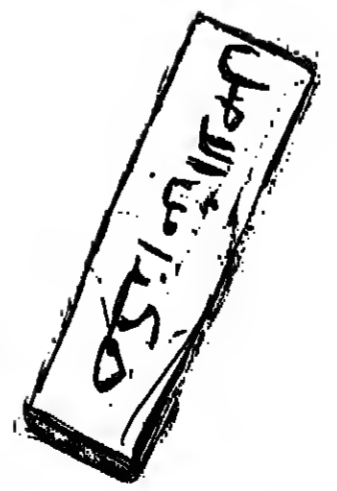
"The unit's modest size, and consequently its coherence, is one of its most valuable characteristics; and we would not suggest that its size be greatly changed. We recognize that it follows that the unit would not be able to undertake large-scale modelling studies which demand large resources", the panel says in its report to the vice-chancellor.

SPRU has a total staff of about 50, including 35 academics. However, only three full-time and two half-time posts are university appointments. The rest are on short-term contracts from a wide range of sponsors, including the Science Research Council, Government departments, industrial firms and international agencies such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the Organisation of American States. Extra-mural funds account for most of the overheads and adults' training expenses, and more than 85 per cent of the resources needed to sustain SPRU's activities come from outside the university.

The review panel urges the university "to find, from whatever sources, some way of lessening SPRU's dependence on short-term support and allowing it to pursue, as thoroughly as it would wish, sustained longer-term studies, and to initiate more original work, not solely of a critical character."

This view is endorsed by the unit's director, Professor Christopher Freeman, and the deputy director, Dr Geoffrey Oldham, who are planning to get SPRU's main sponsors to consult and provide better long-term funding and security. They particularly want to see some of the one or two-year contracts replaced by five-year renewable fellowships. They are also acting on the panel's recommendation that SPRU prepares a programme of work it wishes to undertake during the next few years. Dr Oldham, who will be responsible for preparing the forward plan, wants to hear from anyone with views about the research priorities SPRU should adopt for the 1980s.

The review panel hoped SPRU might come to play a larger part in the university's general teaching and become more active in offering post-experience teaching to those actually engaged in policy making. The unit's staff, however, feel it would be difficult to do much further in those directions until the balance of long and short-term funding has been adjusted. Most of the main sponsors over the past 10 years, as well as British and foreign academics, were represented on the 27-strong panel, and some SPRU staff were disappointed that their report was short and generalized, or "wishy-washy", as they put it. The panel left Sussex with this last thought: "SPRU has gained a world-wide reputation. The university may care to ponder on whether SPRU's reputation in the United Kingdom is commensurate with this."



BOOKS

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Whiggish

The Letters of Thomas Babington Macaulay: III: January 1811-August 1841

The third volume in Professor Pinney's meticulously edited and beautifully produced series of Macaulay's letters begins with Macaulay preparing to make his fortune in India.

It is, as Mann scrupulously admits, a legend that he told the emperor he could maintain an army of 50,000 but not of 20,000 men.

Donald Pennington

Scholarship of slavery

(1962) has clearly influenced his second, documentary volume.

Some specialists in the study of slavery may consider that the work of the American scholar Professor E. A. Bapers, on the Central and East African slave trades, has not been given the credit which is its due.

An important feature of his work is his attempt to estimate the export of slaves from Eastern Africa in the nineteenth century.

Beachey's first volume follows largely the pattern of conventional narrative history; it provides the non-specialist reader, for the first time, with an insight into the range and the ramifications of the slave trade of Eastern Africa.

The preface to Beachey's first volume claims that "in contrast to the flow of monographs, PhD theses and books, a veritable avalanche of literature that exists for the West African/Atlantic slave trade, a blanket of silence has covered the eastern side of the African continent."

As Macaulay demitted office following the Tory election success of 1841, he was planning both Edinburgh Review articles and his great works.

George Shepperson

Swashbuckling Bohemian

swashbuckling phrase, building from his lips. He does not write one page where two will do.

But behind the barriers of language Wallenstein is a scholarly achievement. The hundred pages of footnotes omitted from the English version suggest that every fragment of evidence has been exploited with professional skill.

Wallenstein is a magnificent subject for the biographer. The obscure Bohemian aristocrat who created and controlled the greatest army in Europe, punning his own economy and devising his own campaign, would have been fascinating even without the stigma of his treason in the emperor and his bizarre assassination.

If astrologers had revealed to Wallenstein that he lived in the general crisis or the dawn of capitalism he might have thought

Magic and maleficia

This mixture of varieties of witchcraft and the linked nature of the period went hand in hand with a comparative leniency on the part of the authorities.

ISBN 0 8014 0963 2

Sacralization of identity

Identity and the Sacred: A Sketch for a New Social-scientific theory of Religion

For a long time Professor Mol refused to take any definition of religion seriously. Had he accepted the definitions of others these would have restricted his field of vision by providing what was important and what unimportant and this was something he wanted to decide for himself.

Professor Mol has now reached the stage where he is in a position to say what he calls a sketch for a new social-scientific theory of religion. This starts with the definition of religion as "the sacralization of identity".

ISBN 0 236 40036 X

All credit to Greece

Rome's Debt to Greece by Alan Woodruff

We tend to get what we want out of great literature and to read much of ourselves, of our own world and its values into it.

The Romans, for their part, owed a huge intellectual debt to the Greeks but, although detailed areas of this have been explored before, there have been few attempts to study in a wide perspective what the Romans thought of the Greeks and how they borrowed and transformed Greek ideas.

Alan Woodruff concentrates on four fields: the interpretation of Homer, the study of Greek historians, philosophy and rhetoric, and the inevitable exclusion of much of the most important Greek literature.

Diderot: The Virtue of a Philosopher by C. Blum

It is difficult to understand why this book, which first appeared in New York in 1974, has now found an English publisher, or why reputable English reviewers, who ought to be able to reproduce on the jacket, should have seen fit to praise it on its first appearance.

The author's aim is perhaps best explained in his own words: "Virtue" was Diderot's mediation between the impersonal forces of society and the superpersonal forces of the individual.

H. MacL. Currie



An oil on canvas painting entitled "Conspirators", 50in by 36in, painted c. 1930 by Philip Guston (b 1913). An illustration from Yes, but... A Critical Study of Philip Guston by Dore Ashton, published by Secker & Warburg of £8.75.

Roman Callimachus

Propertius: A Critical Introduction by J. P. Sullivan

Propertius: A Critical Introduction by J. P. Sullivan. Cambridge University Press, £6.25. ISBN 0 521 20904 8

Robert Graves's I, Claudius is certainly a distorted and highly coloured account, but its current television presentation has given many of us some idea of the early stages and personalities of the Roman principate.

The reading Sullivan offers of poem 4, 6, the centropiece of the book, which deals with the battle of Actium, is well judged. The awkwardness and frigidity of the language have struck critics forcibly, but they have tended to see it as an indication that Propertius was really more

terial quality which on the level of instinctive behaviour was acquired by the consolidation and stabilization of new genetic materials. The continuities of sacralization, then, is a sort of brake applied to unchecked infinite adaptations in symbol systems for which there is increasingly less evolutionary necessity and which becomes increasingly more dysfunctional for the emotional security of personality and for the integration of tribe or community.

A basic assumption in Professor Mol's account of the sacralization of identity is that there is a continual and fundamental dialectic between adaptation and identity or between differentiation and integration.

Another basic assumption of Professor Mol's perspective is that there is a "sacralizing tendency" in the human condition. He breaks down the mechanisms of sacralization into four main areas: (1) objectification (the projection of order into a rarefied reality "beyond" where it is less vulnerable to contradictions, exceptions and contingencies than in the empirical world); (2) commitment (the emotional anchoring of the individual in the repetitive actions, rituals and movements which prevent the object of sacralization being lost sight of); (3) myth (the integration of the various symbols in a coherent, short-hand symbolic account).

The book proceeds to examine

Wallenstein, his life narrated by Golo Mann, translated by Charles Kestler. Penguin, £10.50. ISBN 0 233 96813 X

During the sixteenth and early seventeenth century the Jura region was infested with witches. It was also a region of great political and religious diversity embracing Franche-Comté, which although part of the Holy Roman Empire until 1678 was governed by a typically French monarch, the Republic of Geneva and a hotch-potch of Swiss Cantons together with some other territories dependent on princely courts.

Yet within this not exceptional picture there were significant variations; and the prime interest of the study lies in the author's skill in bringing them out and establishing the peculiar nature of Jura witchcraft.

A consistent picture emerges from Wardman's pages, a strikingly novel or surprising drawn with great depth of feeling. His main achievement is to incorporate so much specific detail and anecdote to substantiate his arguments. It is refreshing to see such good use being made of this thought-provoking book.

Even the most scholarly of us generally offer merely translated versions of the French original. In this respect, the author's use of idiomatic and the authors' own usual convention of showing where cuts have been made in the text. In both respects the book is a most useful and readable work.

It is impossible to agree with the eminent reviewer who attacked the book on its first appearance as a profoundly important contribution to the study of the Enlightenment.

Philip Breckbank is professor of English at the University of York; Keith Clayton is professor in the department of environmental sciences at the University of East Anglia; John Lough is professor of French at the University of Durham; Donald Pennington, fellow and tutor at Balliol College, Oxford, is

author of Seventeenth-Century Europe; A. P. Thrivall, professor of applied economics at the University of Kent, is author of Growth and Development: The Age of Change, is professor of modern history at the University of Strathclyde; Dennis Waldland is professor of American literature at the University of Manchester and author of Wilfred Owen: A Critical Study.

John Lough

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